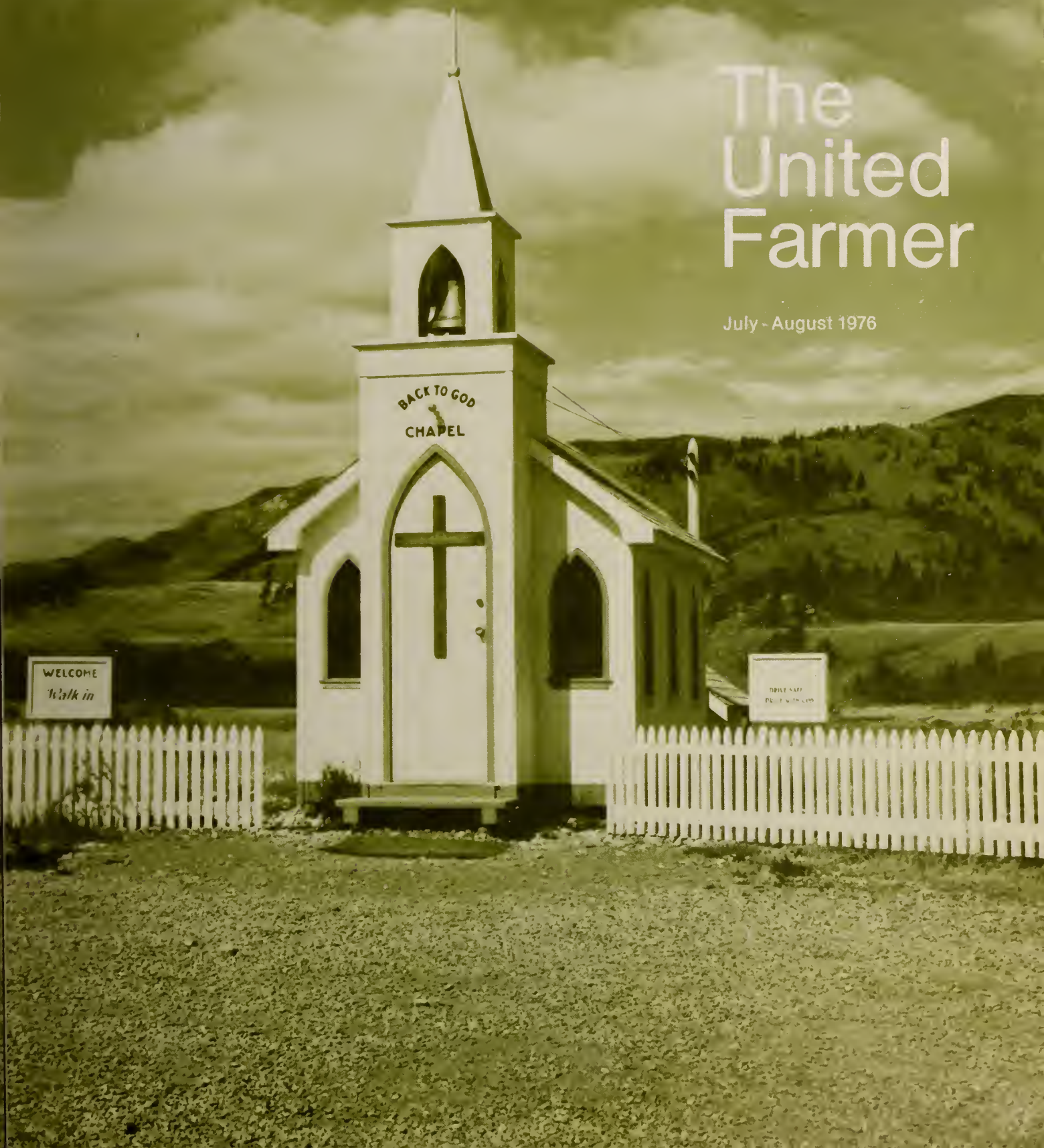


# The United Farmer

July - August 1976



# The United Farmer

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## Cover Picture

Back to God Chapel at Bellevue,  
Alberta. Picture courtesy of  
Alberta Government, Department  
of Industry and Tourism.

# FARM SAFETY

= Reduced Costs  
and Increased Production



## Farm Machinery Accidents Can Be Prevented

Farm mechanization has made a positive contribution to Canadian Society. It has played a major role in increasing farm productivity and has benefited the farm community and the rest of the country.

At the same time, farm mechanization is accompanied by increased accident hazards. Studies disclosed that farm machinery fatalities have doubled over the past ten years. Even more disturbing is the breakdown of these deaths showing that 20% are in the under 10 age group and another 17% are ages 10 to 19.

*The total number of fatalities for farming is higher than any other industry.*

Of all fatal machinery accidents, 78% involve tractors and of these more than half are overturn accidents. After tractors, the machines most commonly involved in fatal accidents are combines, balers, corn pickers, forage harvesters and spreaders. More than half of the field machine fatalities, not counting tractors, involve the victim being caught in the mechanism and 20% are passengers.

The great majority of these farm machinery accidents can be prevented. Unsafe operating procedures and poor maintenance are the main causes of farm machinery accidents. The farmer himself is directly responsible for the high accident rate and it's up to him to reduce the needless toll of death and injuries.

Here are some general suggestions for the prevention of farm accidents:

1. Lift and handle heavy objects in a way to avoid strain or possible back injury or hernia. Bend the knees not the back.
2. Protect feet—wear safety boots or shoes.
3. Ensure that nightfall does not catch you on the road without adequate safety lighting.
4. Wear comfortable, close fitting clothing which has no loose ends to catch in machinery and provides protection from strong sun, dampness or cold.
5. Avoid rush or hurry. This is a major cause of accidents. Operate tractors and farm machinery only as recommended by the manufacturers. When transporting or towing, use speeds appropriate to weather or operating conditions.

# Action at Airdrie



Left to right—Seated: John Hand, David Andersen, Kim Wallace, Greg Lewis, Joe Bailey, Richard DeFehr, Don Stacey.—standing: Dean Morrison, Jim Hardy, Garvie Bissell, John Harnack, Mark Raines, Dave Lyons, Tom Hardy, Sid Stansall.—Missing from picture: John DeDominicis, Darron Bennett, Jim Stultsitz, Sven Olsen.

**“Learning to play together as a team is more important than playing to win.”**

That's the point coach Jim Hardy has emphasized to his team. And play they have!! They've won some and lost some but the Airdrie Pee Wee Tiny Mites have made giant strides in learning to play together.

The boys' ages range from 9 - 12 years. Most of the players are completely new to hockey. Any playing they did before was on natural ice. The team is made up of students at the Airdrie School and they have a new Sports Arena, opened in Airdrie in 1976, to play in.

*This team didn't quite fit into any of the structured leagues.*

Coach Jim Hardy and his wife Trudy have a Simmental cow-calf operation near Airdrie. As parents of boys who wanted to play hockey, they found themselves becoming much more involved with the team than they had anticipated. The boys wanted to play hockey, but as a community league with variable ages, they didn't quite fit into any of the structured leagues. This created some difficulty in finding teams to compete with. Jim Hardy was determined to give the team a chance to play so he phoned several men in other rural communities and was able to form a community league comprised of Carstairs, Chestermere Lake, Conrich, Westbrook and Cochrane.

*Some parents took a keen interest in the team . . . others sluffed their responsibilities.*

The majority of the players' parents took a keen interest in the team and not only drove the boys to their games but encouraged and supported them. However, there were some parents who sluffed their responsibilities and didn't show for even one game. The town of Airdrie did support the club and this further encouraged the boys.

## Action at Airdrie cont'd

The most prolific scorers on any hockey team have been stopped dead in their tracks by not having players to run interference for them. By working to form a team rather than relying entirely upon spectacular feats of an individual star, a tremendous team spirit has emerged in the Airdrie Pee Wee Tiny Mites Team. Every player is given good ice time. On this team, it's not only the best hockey players who are allowed to play the majority of the time.

The team practised once a week during the season and had anywhere from one to three games a week. Special team awards were presented this year to **Greg Lewis** for sportsmanship and to **Tom Hardy** for the most improved player.

Credit must be given to Jim Hardy and his wife Trudy who have certainly worked for and supported the team. In fact, Trudy has become a hockey enthusiast. She is becoming knowledgeable about the game and takes care of the time clock at the games.

**Al Smith** of Smith Petroleum and United Farmers of Alberta were proud to be associated with the Airdrie Pee Wee Tiny Mites and supplied the sweaters, sox, numbers and crests for the team.

The '75-'76 season is over—but the boys are enthused about playing together next year, so watch for action in Airdrie from the Pee Wee Tiny Mites Hockey Team.

## Fifth FDD Office opens in Camrose



**RAY BLACK**  
Manager, FDD Camrose

Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Red Deer and now Camrose. United Farmers recently opened its fifth Farmstead Development Department office in Camrose.

The Manager at FDD Camrose is Ray Black and he brings with him many years of experience in this field. Ray has been with United Farmers of Alberta since 1968. He started at the Edmonton Farm Supply Center and joined the Farmstead Development Department in April, 1973. Prior to his appointment as FDD Manager at Camrose, Ray was Expediter for FDD Edmonton.

Born in Hardisty, Ray grew up on the family farm. He received his schooling at Hughenden. Ray has been the man on the job for many production facilities and other farmstead buildings that UFA has built. To UFA's many customers in the Camrose area, Ray Black is the man to see if you have any building requirements.

Ray, his wife, Maureen, and son, Derek, are now living in Camrose and looking forward to becoming involved in the Camrose community.



# New Farm Supply Centers to be Opened

**United Farmers of Alberta will soon be opening their 20th and 21st Farm Supply Centers at Consort and Glendon.**

## Consort

United Farmers of Alberta will soon be opening their 20th and 21st Farm Supply Centers at Consort and Glendon.

In conjunction with UFA's Petroleum Agent at Consort, Gib Liknes, a limited service with a moderate facility and reduced inventory was previously obtainable at Consort. The response of members in the area has resulted in a full service center now being built. Approximately four acres of land, at the junction of Highway 12 and 41, were purchased for the new Center. A wide range of merchandise will be carried and inventory mix will be changed as demanded by local requirements.

Physical facilities will consist of one large structure combining a 50 x 100 main building with a 40 x 50 mezzanine storage and 20 x 40 attached storage. The structure will be wood frame with prefinished metal cladding in the UFA orange color. Included will be a shop facility to service the many lines of short line machinery sold by UFA. The Manager at Consort will be Pat Robison and a Customer Service Supervisor will be appointed. Other staff will be recruited locally when volume warrants increasing staff.

United Farmers of Alberta appreciates the support given at Consort with its limited service. Increased support is anticipated for the new expanded facility.

## Glendon

United Farmers will be opening a full service Farm Supply Center in Glendon this summer. This center will serve an area northeast of Edmonton, including Bonnyville and St. Paul.

The facilities at Glendon will be the same as those at Consort. On staff at the Glendon Farm Supply Center will be Dennis Miller, as Manager, and Bill Sakaluk as Customer Service Supervisor. Other staff will be recruited locally.

United Farmers of Alberta is confident that all farm members in the Glendon trading area will fully support their new facility.

# Appointments

**Jim Shindler, Manager of the Farm Supply Division, recently announced the following appointments in the Farm Supply Division.**



**Gordon Wenzel**  
Manager  
Distribution Center

A seventeen year veteran with UFA, Gordon Wenzel began as a salesman at the Edmonton Farm Supply Center. Raised on a farm northeast of Edmonton, he attended school at Nampa and Horse Hill.

In 1961, Mr. Wenzel was promoted to Head Counterman, and in 1962 was appointed Manager of the Red Deer Farm Supply Center. In 1967, he was promoted to Manager of the Edmonton Farm Supply Center, and in 1975 to Farm Center Supervisor, North.

On May 15, 1976, Gordon was appointed Distribution Center Manager. He will be responsible for the purchasing, inventory control and movement to all branches of merchandise handled at the Distribution Center.

In addition, his responsibilities will include the co-ordination and redistribution of numerous product lines ordered in bulk and shipped to the Distribution Center for immediate reshipping to Branches. These products will not be carried in permanent inventory at the Distribution Center. New product lines will be distributed as the Distribution Center grows, providing a much needed service for all Branches.

Gordon and his wife, Margaret, have two daughters Karen and Brenda and a son, Dale. Gordon is active in his church and in Cubs and Scouts. For hobbies he enjoys carpentry, hunting and fishing.



**Dennis Miller**  
Manager  
Glendon Farm Supply Center

Glendon is the 2nd new Farm Supply Center opening that Dennis Miller has been closely involved with.

He joined UFA in 1973 as a Salesman at Oyen and immediately started preparing for the opening of UFA's 17th Farm Supply Center. Now Dennis has been very busy preparing for the opening of UFA's 21st Farm Supply Center at Glendon, where he will be the first Manager.

Raised on the family farm in the Hilda area, Dennis attended school in Hilda and Medicine Hat. Prior to joining UFA he worked with a major lumber company and Alberta Power.

In July, 1975, Dennis was appointed Purchasing Agent and moved to the Calgary Head Office.

Dennis and his wife Louise have two children Beryl and Nicole. For hobbies, Dennis enjoys carpentry, golf, curling and fishing.



**Patrick J. Robison**  
Manager  
Farm Supply Center  
Consort

Born in Wainwright, Pat Robison grew up on the family farm one mile east of Chauvin. He completed his Grade 12 at Dr. H. G. Folkins High in Chauvin.

Pat worked for McLeods Hardware for 1½ years and then joined the Farm Supply Division of UFA in 1971 as a Customer Sales Representative at Provost. In 1974, he was appointed Assistant Manager at Vermilion, and will now be the first Manager of the new Farm Supply Center at Consort.

Interested in fishing, hunting, sports in general and wood-working, Pat is looking forward to becoming involved in the Consort community.

Pat and his wife, Jeanette, have a daughter, Terri Lee.



**Don Benkie**  
Manager  
Stettler Farm Supply Center

Born in the Camrose area, Don Benkie grew up on the family farm and attended school at Bashaw.

In December, 1966, Don joined UFA as a Salesman at the Edmonton Farm Supply Center. In 1972, he was appointed

Assistant Manager at Red Deer and in 1974, became the first Manager of the new Two Hills Farm Supply center.

Recently, Don was appointed Manager of the Stettler Farm Supply Center. He and his wife, Ann, have a son Kevin.

For hobbies, Don enjoys skiing, all summer sports, broomball and trail bike riding.



**Tim B. Greenlee**  
Manager  
Two Hills Farm Supply Center

Tim Greenlee was attending the University of Alberta and working at the Stettler Farm Supply Center in the summer. He returned to University in the fall and worked for UFA in the summer. This time Tim stayed on and joined our Company in 1971 as a Salesman.

Originally from Stettler, Tim grew up on the family farm in the Botha area and attended Botha and Stettler schools.

In 1973, he was appointed Assistant Manager at the Red Deer Farm Supply Center and in 1974, became Assistant Manager at Edmonton. Tim was recently appointed Manager at Two Hills.

Tim has played for a commercial hockey team and is interested in all sports, especially golf and hockey.



**Hank A. Dahl**  
Manager  
FDD Calgary

Upon completion of his schooling at Delia, Hank Dahl started with UFA in April, 1966, as a Salesman at the Calgary Farm Supply Center.

Born in Drumheller, Hank was raised on the family farm, 15 miles north of Delia. He worked for some months with the Information Service Division and then in February, 1970, was appointed Assistant Manager at Red Deer.

In 1971, Hank was appointed Manager of the Stettler Farm Supply Center, a position he held until his recent appointment as Manager of the Farmstead Development Department, Calgary.

Hank and his wife, Inez, have a daughter, Tammy. For hobbies, Hank enjoys golfing and hunting.

# Albertan of the

## The Cadillac of Hog Barns—an attractive and unique barn



Neil and Gloria Fulks

**Neil Fulks**  
Sprucefield Farms  
Waskatenau, Alberta

*'The best possible education when it comes to livestock production.'*

Neil Fulks is a progressive young farmer who raises purebred stock on his farm 3¾ miles north of Waskatenau. He has the best possible education when it comes to livestock production.

The Fulks family is recognized as one of the top farm families in Alberta. Neil's father, Stanley, with whom Neil is together in all facets of the business, was awarded the 1965 Farm Family Award in Edmonton and was again the winner in 1966 and

1967. They are the only family to win this award three years in a row and are, now, not eligible to compete.

Stanley Fulks came to the Waskatenau area in 1933. Neil grew up on the family farm and, after his marriage, built a new house across the road from his parent's home. The senior Mr. Fulks encouraged his son to modernize and the result was the new hog barn, a good looking, practical and timesaving show place.

Basically, Neil sells breeding stock and supplies commercial farmers with gilts and purebred boars. He does cross breeding and has brought in some purebred Durocs from the States. Neil is aiming for pigs that will go to market in the least number of days and have the least amount of back fat, which is the way Canadians like it.

On an average, the pigs gain 2.30 pounds per day. One of the purebred Yorks gained 2.94 pounds per day and this is considered a high for Canada.

In the old set-up, labor was a definite problem. It would take approximately eight hours of



Jimmy Fulks and some of the many trophies awarded to the Fulks family.



Connie and Nancy Fulks, all dressed up for Klondike Days.

# Month

## What is practical.

work daily with the pigs. In the new barn, it takes about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour each day for cleaning and bedding down. A lot of management time, so necessary for today's farmer, is saved.

Some months ago, agricultural people from Japan visited the barn. They were very impressed with the set-up. In fact, they said it was the best barn they had been in, and, in particular, commented on the cleanliness and absence of any offensive odor.

*The best barn the Japanese visitors had been in.*

### The Barn

The barn is 36' x 100'. There is metal cladding on the outside with 6" insulation all the way. The inside is lined with V-8 select plywood. There are three

coats of paint on the inside so it can be hosed down.

The floor has straw on it and this is done for a definite reason. As Neil raises show hogs, he feels that the straw bedding eliminates bumps or knots on the leg. This is important for show purposes. His pigs seem to do better on the bedding but mainly it is for show, even though it takes more work than slatted floors. The area the pigs are on is sloped then drops into a manure gutter.



The urine all drains down into barn cleaner gutters and there is enough slope so that the water drains away. The barn gutter is 10" deep and is cleared away every day. Neil has a manure spreader and if he can't get out some days, stockpiles the manure in the back.

### Ventilation

The barn has baffle type ventilation. It has water heating, utilizing copperline with fins on it. As the water passes through, the copperline gets hot and the fins dissipate the heat by creating a larger heated area. Cold air doesn't get directly into the barn. It hits the warm area that the fin and tube is riding on and as it circulates, it is warmed up. This heating system eliminates the dampness, frost and sweat there was in the old barn. The thermostats are down the center of the barn.



The "Cadillac of Hog Barns"

# Albertan of the Month *cont'd*



Inside the airy barn.

*Pigs with the least amount of back fat—the way Canadians like it.*

## **Pens**

The pens are Henn-Rich pens with self-feeders and waterers. The Fulks grind their own feed and use barley and soya beans on a 15½% ration. There are 20 pens 10' x 12½'. They hold 22-23 pigs per pen in the 45-60 lb. weight. Up to 140 lbs., there are 16-17 pigs in a pen. Neil is basically interested in a fast gain for his hogs, but he realizes the importance of not overcrowding them.

## **Three Foot Perimeter**

The highlight of the barn is the 3' perimeter that runs around the entire barn. Neil agrees that he possibly could have gotten more hogs in if he did not have this three foot aisle. However, for his purposes, it is

most practical as he is in the business of selling purebred stock and the perimeter makes it easy to go into the barn and view the stock.

Neil had seen a similar barn at the test station at Lacombe built on the same principle. He approached the F.D.D. in Edmonton and spoke to Mike Liwczak, manager of F.D.D. Edmonton, who assigned Joe Dechant to the job. They discussed what Neil wanted and Joe figured out costs and made suggestions.

Neil feels his barn has worked out very well and commented on the excellent working relationship he had with Joe. When any problems were encountered, Joe was on the spot. In addition, Neil was very satisfied with the work done by Nick Bohachyk of Redwater, who was the contractor for the job.

The senior Mr. Fulks recently received the Centennial Livestock Award in recognition of his

outstanding contribution to the livestock industry of Alberta. The award was made by the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and the Edmonton Exhibition Association.

*'One of the top farm families in Alberta.'*

In 1975, the Fulks won the Supreme Champion Sow Award in Edmonton for the top selling sow and the top selling boar. The family is recognized as first rate farmers and other than taking stock to exhibitions, they have done very little advertising in order to sell their stock.

Neil is married to the former Gloria Mazurenko, who grew up seven miles north. They have three lovely children Connie, Nancy and Jimmy. Both Neil and Gloria like living on the farm and are interested in their industry. Neil Fulks is a very progressive and astute young farmer who is aware, because of the excellent background that he has received from his award winning family, the importance of a good, clean environment for the livestock he is raising. Neil is also very cognizant of the importance of a reliable auxiliary power system to his business. He invested \$3,000 in one, so that if the power ever does go off, the auxiliary power turns on automatically and the business continues.

*Top boar sold for \$1,900.*

It is mostly commercial operators that buy Neil's stock, as

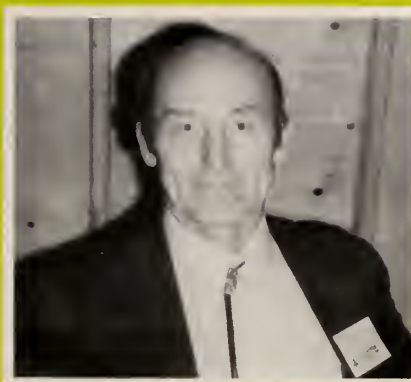
well as a few purebred breeders. He recently sent two boars at \$1,000 each to the artificial insemination unit in Ontario. Bill Allen of Bentley bought his top boar for \$1,900. Neil has a lot of repeat customers. The Taylors from Vermilion are good customers and on a recent visit, were very impressed with the new barn. There is an AI unit that has been going successfully in Ontario for a few years and Neil is most interested in the one that is to be set up at Leduc.

Neil Fulks is still planning ahead. At the present time the farrowing barn is across the road. He is planning a new one and has been thoroughly satisfied with his working relationship with UFA and plans to have them build the new farrowing barn.

United Farmers of Alberta is proud to have been associated with the Fulks family who have certainly received deserved recognition as top farmers. The United Farmer is proud to recognize Neil Fulks, a young man who is proud of his industry and an asset to agriculture, as Albertan of the Month.

**Joe Dechant**  
FDD Representative  
Edmonton

In a sleigh pulled by oxen, Joe Dechant's father, his wife and five children left Grouard. This was the end of the railway and Mr. Dechant was going to a homestead in the Fairview area that he had filed on, site unseen.



Joe Dechant.

The land was rocky, but the senior Mr. Dechant cleared it by hand and attempted to raise grain. It was hard to eke out a living for his family and after fifteen years of trying to make the land pay, he moved to Manning.

Joe Dechant was born in Fairview and was raised on the family farm in the Manning area. He farmed on his own for many years and in 1963 formed his own construction company, Dechant Builders, Manning Ltd., with the slogan, "Builders of the Finest Homes." Over the years, Joe's company built over 85 homes in the Manning area, the I.G.A. Store, the Manning Drug Store and the Saint James Roman Catholic Church.

A leg injury suffered in a highway accident forced Joe to leave the construction field. For two years he ran a trailer court and coin laundry. His leg continued to bother him, so Joe took an estimator's position with Muttart Industries in Edmonton. He was with them for three years and then joined UFA in February, 1973.

Joe and his wife Mary have seven children of whom he is very proud. They are Agnes (Mrs. Bill McClure); Martina (Mrs. Orrin Lyseng) who is a registered psychiatric nurse; Lucille (Mrs. Harry Hawkings) who has her B of Ed. and is a school teacher; Eileen (Mrs. Richard Gilborn) a chartered accountant; Clarence, who has his degree in business administration; Carol who is taking pharmacy at the University of Alberta and Lawrence in grade school.

Joe enjoys his work with FDD Edmonton. His background in farming, construction and estimating has proven invaluable to him in his work. Joe makes every effort to ensure that his customers are satisfied. Primco Farms is a good example of the confidence Joe's customers have in him. In 1973, Joe sold Primco a chicken barn. Since then they have bought from FDD and Joe, a house, another chicken barn, a cattle shed, a fertilizer shed and another house.

Joe is doing a good repeat business, a sure sign that the people he has built for are satisfied.



# New Agents in 1976



**ROY R. OLSON**  
UFA Agent  
Worsley

A native of Innisfail, Roy Olson grew up on the family farm. He received his schooling in Innisfail and then farmed with his dad.

Roy's father purchased land at Worsley and this instigated the family's move to the Peace River country where Roy still farms with his father.

On April 5, 1976, Roy became UFA Agent at Worsley.

He is a Legion member, enjoys horseback riding, model building, skidooing and is a member of the local skidoo club.



**DARYL JEANNOTTE**  
UFA Agent  
Bay Tree

Appointed Agent at Bay Tree on November 3rd, 1975, Daryl Jeannotte is very familiar with this area of Alberta. He was born in Dawson Creek, B.C. and grew up on a farm twelve miles from Bay Tree, across the border from Dawson Creek.

Daryl is on the committee of the local Credit Union. He is a member of the curling club and is interested in all sports.

He and his wife Gail have two daughters Leah-Ann and Gaetanette.



**RUSSELL I. WEES**  
UFA Agent  
Granum

Appointed UFA agent at Granum on December 29, 1975, Russell Wees is originally from Langbank, Saskatchewan. Raised on the farm, he attended Woodside School in the Poplar Grove School District. He farmed with his mother in Saskatchewan until 1961 and then worked in Thompson, Manitoba from 1962 until 1974 in a variety of positions; as a labourer, ladle man, furnace operator and then as a crane operator. His last position before becoming UFA agent at Granum was as a labour boss at Thompson.

Mr. Wees has become active in the Granum community and is a member of the Granum Drop-In Centre, Granum United Church, Curling Club and the Elks Lodge.

Mr. Wees and wife Ferne have three children, Terry, Shelley-Rae and Scott.



**WALTER B. CARSTAIRS**  
UFA Agent  
Warburg

On February 3, 1976, Walter Carstairs became UFA Agent at Warburg. Prominent in community affairs, he is the mayor of Warburg. He also belongs to the Thorsby Fish and Game Association, the Warburg Legion and the local Fire Department.

Born and raised on the family farm at Glenevis, Alberta, Mr. Carstairs attended Tipperary School. He farmed until joining the army in 1943 and on his return farmed at Glenevis from 1953-1964.

For two years, Mr. Carstairs operated a garage and service station at Warburg and then for nine years, hauled milk. At the present time, in addition to being the UFA agent, he is a school bus driver.

Mr. Carstairs and his wife Grace have five sons, Bruce, Terry, Dwayne, Randy, Darcy and a daughter Lynn.

# Agent of the Month



Bob and Margaret Butcher

*"There isn't a better product on the market and I've proven it many times."*

## **Bob Butcher**

Petroleum Manager  
High River Co-op Oils

Bob Butcher is an enthusiast, especially when it comes to marketing UFA petroleum products. Bob will be glad to tell you, "There isn't a better product on the market and I've proven it many times." Bob's firm conviction that the product he sells is the best, is reflected in the sales at High River Co-op Oils.

High River Co-op Oils is a Member Association of United Farmers of Alberta and over 400 of its members are customers of Bob Butcher. The chairman of the High River Co-op Oils is **John Green**; secretary - **Harold White**; immediate past chairman - **Archie Nauta** and the other members of the board are: **John Murray, Richard Wambeke, Bob Tucker, Roy McLean, "Buster"**

**Davis, Jim Hughes and Gordon Jones.** Mr. Jones is also the UFA delegate for Affiliated Co-ops, District #5.

Bob Butcher has been with High River Co-op Oils for eighteen years, as a driver salesman for thirteen years, and he is now starting his fifth year as manager.

The business has grown beyond even Bob's expectations and he anticipates further strong increases. Inflation has caused many people to look carefully at values and Bob is convinced that High River Co-op Oils offers the best combination of savings and quality.

Active in the High River community, particularly in the sports field, Bob is an ardent curler and has devoted a lot of time to coaching and umpiring baseball. His involvement with sports goes back to his association with the late Father Athol Murray. During his minor hockey days, Bob played goal for him and reminisces that if he had listened to the good Pere and played the way he wanted him to, he might have had the opportunity to play with the Toronto Maple Leafs.

*'I didn't bring you here to make Catholics out of you, I brought you here to make men out of you.'*

All the hockey players lived in little huts behind Father Murray's Manse. In addition to the many hours of school and hockey practice, the boys also attended church. Father Murray would wake them up and tell them in a loud voice, "Fellows, get out of bed and go to church. I didn't bring you here to make Catholics out of you, I brought you here to make men out of you. Now, there is a church here for every denomination, so, get out of bed and go to church." Bob remembers Father Murray preaching at the United Church and a Mr. Snider, the United Church minister, taking the Mass at the Catholic Church.

When Bob was in high school, Nick and Don Metz, two outstanding hockey players who were with the Toronto Maple Leafs, started a ball team. This club eventually became one of the best in Canada and Bob Butcher became a baseball enthusiast. He played for many years, loved the sport, and later, in order to stay involved, took up umpiring.

**Chancey Howe** of High River and Bob have worked with the Alberta Umpire Association for over ten years. For three years they ran an umpire clinic in Calgary. This year, a provincial clinic was held in High River and previously it was held in Nanton and Stavely. At the clinic, the rule books are gone over thoroughly and those attending write an exam at which they can use the rule

# Agent of the Month cont'd

books. Every attempt is made to have those attending the school become conversant with the rules and an umpire is never rejected.

Bob was president of the local umpires league for five years and vice-chairman of the provincial umpire league until he suffered a heart attack. He is again becoming involved and has been asked to take the chairmanship this year. He feels that his health, as yet, is not good enough for him to do this, and also look after his busy agency.

Bob's association with trucking came about through his playing hockey. He was hired as a goal keeper by the Eston Refinery and also hauled gas from Turner Valley to Eston.

There were four trucks and eight drivers. A change of drivers was made at Hanna and that's where Bob met his future wife, Margaret. Bob worked as a brakeman for the CNR out of Hanna for five years and then went into the army. While he was away, Margaret moved with their two girls to High River

where her parents lived. Their daughters are now married and Ann (Mrs. Lorne Harris) lives in Kamloops and Donna (Mrs. David Pearson) lives in Calgary.

When Bob came home in 1946, he went to work for George Eamor. He later worked for Gas & Oil Products for five years, White Rose for five years and then worked for Jenkins Ranches for two years. Bob worked as a back-hoe driver until the job as a driver with High River Co-op Oils became available. In total, he has now been with the Association for eighteen years and was appointed manager in 1971.

The "Gal Behind the Gallons" at High River Co-op Oils is Margaret Butcher and Bob couldn't be more enthused about her supportive work at the agency. He finds that the husband and wife combination is excellent. At first, some customers were a little hesitant to deal with Margaret, but this was completely eliminated after the first month. In fact, many customers when they came in to pay their bills ask to talk to Margaret.

Margaret Butcher, nee Spankie, works full time at the agency. When Bob became sick Margaret was able to adequately take care of the business. The book work, routing for the drivers and customer service keeps Margaret busy. Quite often, she finds it necessary at the end of the month or at particularly busy times of year to take the books home and work on them at night.

Floyd Olsen and Brian Berger are the drivers at High River Co-op Oils. C.J. (Jim) Reed (known as "Mr. Fix-It") is the genial part-time helper. He has been with High River Co-op Oils for eighteen years and is always available when Bob needs him.

Many of Bob's customers have been dealing with him since he has been at the agency. The board of High River Co-op Oils has been active this year. They meet once a month and have done field work to get more customers for the Association.

Bob draws business from the Longview, Red Deer Lake and Connemara area. When someone calls him at home after hours to say they need fuel, Bob readily goes to the agency. With his new key-op pump, he expects gallonage sales to further increase.

High River Co-op Oils is steadily increasing their gallonage sales. Bob is enthused about his work and the potential growth at the agency. The United Farmer salutes Bob and Margaret Butcher for their initiative, hard work and the excellent relations they have in their community.



High River Co-op Oils

# UFA's New Head Office



Exterior shot of the head office.

The move has been made—the head office of United Farmers of Alberta Co-operative Limited is now located at 1016 - 68th Avenue S.W., Calgary.

In a modern office building, it is estimated that 250 square feet per employee is needed. This, of course, includes hallways, storage rooms, machine areas, filing cabinet space, lunch room, etc. In 1969, in the old office, there was 308 square feet per employee. In 1975, this had declined to 234 square feet. By 1978, it was estimated there would be 189 square feet per employee.

Dollar volume at UFA increased from \$24.7 million to \$74.3 million in 1975. Sales per employee rose from \$399,000 to \$744,000. The number of invoices processed went from 4,600 to 10,600 per employee. In consideration of future growth and the maintenance of a high level of productivity, more room was becoming essential.

Over half of the office space in the old building was basement

space without any windows. This was used mainly by the Printing and Stationery Department and Data Processing. The boiler room was used for storage. The loading and delivery area at the back was very inconvenient for delivery and receiving.

In the new building, everything is above ground. Located

on the first floor is: Reception, Controller Department, Member Records, Petroleum and Farm Supply Accounting, Credit, Data Processing, Printing and Stationery, Information Service, Conference Room and Lunch Room. On the second floor Petroleum and Farm Supply Administration, Personnel and Payroll, Board Room and Executive Offices are located.

There is adequate room, accessible storage space, good lighting, a hydraulic loading dock and adequate parking. The new building is 54,336 square feet compared to the 23,000 square feet in the old building. UFA will initially occupy 38,136 square feet and lease out 16,200.

The new head office is a practical and necessary addition to UFA's physical assets which are co-operatively owned by over 58,000 Albertans. All the member-owners of UFA can take a justifiable pride in their new, modern and efficient head office.



Printing Department

# UFA's New Head office cont'd



Credit Department.



Member Records and Farm Supply Accounting.



Data Processing.



Personnel and Payroll